

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2704 without my signature.

This bill authorizes schools to provide free tap water for students in the food service area during the school day. Nothing under current law prohibits a school from providing free tap water to its students. This bill also prohibits a district from entering into contracts that prohibit the availability of free tap water. This bill essentially seeks to regulate a perceived lack of common sense amongst California's school administrators, implying that they are not acting in the best interest of our students, by denying kids access to free tap water. I do not believe this particular bill is necessary.

Instead of signing this bill, I would much rather work with the Legislature on finding more positive and constructive ways to promote the accessibility and consumption of clean water in our schools.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger